THE PULSE

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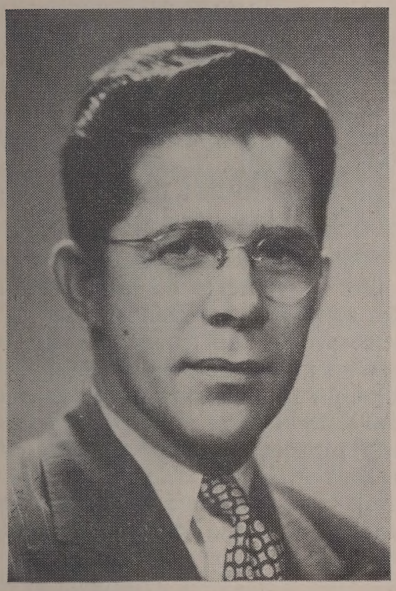

MR. ROBERT D. LOWRY

HERE HE COMES! THERE HE GOES! Who is it? Couldn't be anyone but Mr. Lowry, our Assistant Director. Now, how are we ever going to get an interview if he keeps whizzing around like that? Wait — an idea! After lurking around for three days for a chance to talk to him, we've got it. Nasty trick — not nice at all —hate to do it — but we're desperate —deadline to make. Just a little black string across the hall, and then we wait behind a filing cabinet.

He's coming! There — got him. That was a dirty trick — he didn't see the string, but we had to get the interview. Quick, before he takes off again.

"We're a reporter from THE PULSE. Got an assignment to do on you. Where were you born? When? Where did you ——"

"After what you just did to me, I don't know as I'll talk. But I'll take the matter under advisement."

"Oh, please, you're such a nice person . . ."

"Well . . ."

Limping slightly and feeling himself gingerly all over to take inventory, he led us into his office.

"I was born on a Nebraska farm," Mr. Lowry began, "where I lived for 13 years until my family moved into town. My favorite sport in high school was arguing, so it was only natural to devote extracurricular energies to the debating team. For four years I worked after school in a corner drug store, doing everything from making pills to jerking sodas. No cracks, please.

"After high school I spent a year and a half in a commercial photography studio in Hastings, Nebraska, trying to make up my mind about what vocation to choose. I was all set to go to Chicago for an engineering course, but decided to make a short trip to California first. The visit lasted 15 years.

"In California I took an engineering course at Sacramento College, after which I moved to San Francisco and went into the insurance business. Logical? Next I went into business for myself—commercial refrigeration. Things were going well, until Uncle Sam extended an invitation for a year's vacation at his expense, beginning in March, 1941. My discharge was due December 9, 1941, but two days before that date the course of events changed, and the one year stretched to five.

"My Army career embraced a multitude of things: setting up an X-Ray Department and running an X-Ray Technicians' School in the Station Hospital at Camp San Luis Obispo, California; Officer's Training at Abilene, Texas; helping activate a hospital in New Orleans to go overseas; two years in the South Pacific as a Captain in the Medical Administrative Corps (Australia, New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies, Philippines) —the last year as Adjutant in an Evacuation Hospital commanded by Dr. Neil Swinton of the Lahey Clinic. Discharge on December 31, 1945 ended that chapter.

"Relaxing and getting reacquainted with my family was the next step, and trips to Mexico and Boston helped along that line. In three months (March, 1946) we were all in Boston, and my job at the Deaconess had begun.

"You know the rest—I have a wife and two sons, Don (13) and David (11)—we live in Waltham—I'm a photography addict (took over 2,000 shots in the South Pacific) — like to swim, ski, and bowl. I'm still looking for someone I can beat in the latter. If you know of anyone, give me the word.

"That's about all—except that I was anxious to come to the Deaconess, and I'm surely glad I did. Now if you will excuse me, I had an appointment half an hour ago."

We apologized for the drastic action taken to obtain the interview, thanked him for his valuable time, and wondered how we could read all our shorthand notes. As he swished out the door to cover his next 27 appointments in as many minutes, we watched him thoughtfully, and muttered softly to ourself, "There goes a swell guy."

ANNOUNCING . . . THE WINNER

To Gladys R. Harrison, of the Social Service Department, goes the $5 prize for the best letter on "Why I Like My Job." All the letters were excellent, and the judging was difficult, so hearty congratulations, Gladys, for coming out on top.

The prize-winning letter follows:

"It was not until one day a while ago when a patient said to me, "You certainly *love* your job," that I was aware of the fact that I did. Later when I reflected seriously on that comment, I realized that I most certainly did like my job. And do now!

"Fulfilling the inner desire to have a life of service to others is what I like to think I am doing in my job. Some people turn to an avocation to satisfy such a desire, but in the Social Service and Outpatient Departments at Palmer I have an opportunity to help patients, doctors, and my coworkers in innumerable ways. I get great personal satisfaction from my work and get paid for doing it! Why wouldn't I like my job?"

—Gladys R. Harrison,
Social Service—Palmer

NOLEN-MILES BILL

The Nolen-Miles or "vivisection" senate bill, now being considered at committee hearings, has aroused much interest. Several of our staff members, including Dr. Elliott P. Joslin and Dr. Shields Warren, have testified in favor of the bill before the committee. The bill would provide that a relatively small number of dogs and cats, which are destroyed each year, be given to scientific institutions and laboratories for medical research. There is no intention that "pets" be included.

In Boston alone 65,000 cats and 35,000 dogs are destroyed every year. Only 5% of these are asked to be released to laboratories before they are

destroyed. The need of such animals to carry out important humane medical research, and the reason why the bill should be supported will be obvious to all hospital employees.

WILLIAM A. MEISSNER, M. D.
Associate Pathologist

A trip to the Gardner Auditorium of the State House on the afternoon of March 8 proved to be an amazing and revealing experience. The hall was filled to over-capacity, but I managed to wedge in between two benign elderly women. The Reverend Donald A. McGowan was speaking as a proponent of the Nolen-Miles Pound Bill, Senate 264. As he ended his statement with a quotation from the Scriptures, the two sweet little old women began to hiss violently.

That was just the beginning. As several prominent Boston doctors and laymen stated their opinions, I was to see a dog fondled protectively, clutched tightly to his master's manly bosom ("master" being a 12-year-old); watch a young girl shrink from even brushing against a good-looking young man because (in a loud voice) "he's one of those medical boys;" and hear two other misguided and rude females interrupt proceedings with loud intentional coughing spells and frequent and timely vocal outbursts of various types. Realizing I was shortly to be classed where I didn't want to be, I extricated myself from that group.

Our own Dr. Shields Warren was there—and Mr. Russell Cowing—giving a demonstration involving a Geiger counter and two mice. Mr. J. Wells Farley, representing the Massachusetts Hospital Association, Dr. Sidney Farber of Children's and Massachusetts General, and many others including medical students, housewives, out-of-state-residents, laymen spoke. These were intelligent, clear-thinking people, sure of their convictions, and informed as to the essential facts.

Hospital employees and friends cannot play the idle bystander while the well-oiled propaganda machines of certain minority factions and newspapers direct easily-led persons to the wrong conclusions. We, if anyone, know the benefits of and necessity for furtherance of medical research. We see every day and know so well what has, what can, and what must be done to control and eradicate such vicious killers as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, tuberculosis, and infantile paralysis. We know, too, *how* this can and must be accomplished. It is through research—a large amount of which is carried on right here at the Deaconess. This valuable research would be greatly aided by the passage of the Nolen-Miles Bill.

Our legislators cannot know our individual feelings unless we give them some indication. This can be very simply done by sending a letter or post-card to your Congressman, urging him to support the Nolen-Miles Bill. If you do not know the name of your Congressman, the Massachusetts Medical Society, KEnmore 6-5162, will gladly furnish you with that information. M. P.

FOUR EMPLOYEES RECEIVE AWARDS

During the week of February 18 and 19, the Reverend Clarence A. Morrill, our Field Secretary and Chaplain, was in attendance at the National Association of Hospitals and Homes of the Methodist Church. The convention was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. During the convention the Methodist Board of Hospitals and Homes, under the direction of Dr. Karl Meister, awarded certificates to all employees of 80 institutions in this country who had been in the service of their institution for 25 years or more. The recipients in the New England Deaconess Hospital were Miss Orianna Harding, 35 years; Miss Ada Hamlyn and Mr. Howard Lewis, 27 years; and Miss Ruth Sherman, 25 years of service. Mr. Morrill received the awards in the name of the Hospital and presented them to each person immediately upon his return to Boston. Congratulations to these faithful employees.

HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS

LAUNDRY

Number Two of a Series

Four thousand pieces of soiled linen every day—not the same kind of soil to remove from each of them—greasy aprons and towels from the kitchens—chemical and organic stains from the laboratories and floors. Each article must be laundered quickly and returned to the right place at the right time. Each must be washed clean yet the fibres protected for long wear.

This calls for varied formulas and some knowledge of textiles and washroom chemistry. New methods must be tried and used if satisfactory. For instance, everyone has heard about Solium, a so-called radium paint that is put on the clothes to make them whiter than white. We are not yet sure, however, as to the toxic effect after continued use.

We are not satisfied to operate just another hospital laundry. As this hospital is one of the best, we want our laundry to be one of the best. The State Board of Education has certified our plant as a veterans' training school. One of our members (Mr. Emery.—Ed.) has for the past three years been selected to sit on the panel of experts at the New England Hospital Assembly.

Our short-comings are many, and we could give lots of excuses—but who wants excuses? *Results are the only things that count.* Any success we may have will be due to our contented employees and their knowledge of their work, plus their fine spirit of cooperation.

WALTER C. EMERY

VOLUNTEER SERVICE EXTENDS ITS PROGRAM

The Volunteer Service has inaugurated a new branch—the Arts and Crafts Project. This program has been greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the patients, and by the nurses and doctors as well.

Under the direction of Miss Rudd, volunteers can be found each day in some part of the hospital, pushing the crafts carts which were donated by Stop and Shop Stores and decorated by Mrs. Tompkins of the Laundry with bright-colored covers.

LAUNDRY

Mary Flaherty, Mary Connolly; Press Operators

Patients are offered a wide variety of things to make—among them pert stuffed animals, many-colored leather articles, and weaving. These crafts are fun to learn, easy to do in bed, and require only a short time to complete. Textile painting and other crafts are to be available soon.

The patients have been heard to remark "This is more like a hotel than a hospital now," and "The nurses are amazed that we're so engrossed in our work that our lights haven't been on all morning." "I wish you'd been here before—I've been here three weeks and think what I could have been making."

The Volunteer Service is indebted to the Friends of the Deaconess for providing the necessary funds to start us out with the initial supplies. The patients may buy their materials outright at cost price and keep the finished products, or they may make two articles free of charge by donating one of them to the Thrift Shop for sale. Thus we will be able to buy more materials for wider distribution and greater variety.

An evening group of volunteers works to prepare materials, and we need more people with interest and ability in crafts to work on the floors in order to keep up with the demand.

THE NEW LOOK FOR SPRING

For women it means full skirts, rustly petticoats, murderous waist-pinchers, flowery hats. For men it means a flower in the button-hole and a bright tie.

But for NEDH, it means painting—the biggest, job being, of course, the tunnel, which, with its new white, gray, and black paint, is a thing of beauty and a joy to walk through. The first floor of Deaconess has been redone, too, and most of the offices and rooms have had the winter's collection of dust and grime washed away.

New signs have been installed on the first floor of Deaconess at every possible door to save countless questions. There is still some confusion, however—e.g. the woman the other day who, after having received directions, came back to say she couldn't find the Ladies Room—there was just a door marked "Women."!

RECORD ROOMS REORGANIZED

Miss Ella Needham has accepted the position as head of our Record Rooms. She is coordinating the activities of the Deaconess and Palmer divisions. Miss Evelyn Wilson will supervise the Palmer unit. The records will be kept under the same system, but in the two buildings, as in the past. When the new building is a reality instead of a hope for the future, the Record Rooms will be consolidated physically. With this consolidation in mind, a new numbering system for patients has been inaugurated, as of March 1, beginning again with No. 1. In the future the patient's record will be filed under the NEW, not the ORIGINAL number. It is probable that at some time each department that deals directly with the patient will have occasion to refer to a patient by Case Number, so it would be well for everyone to watch for this number and become accustomed to its use. Many advantages are to be gained. One is that records may now be transferred from building to building. If a patient has been in Deaconess and at some time reenters Palmer it is no longer necessary to make out a new record.

Some confusion is inevitable in any reorganization, but everyone who has to deal with the records later on will find the present plan more efficient.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Want to know who drew the "Battle of the Bulge" for last month's issue? Sure you do—and the editors' apologies for omitting the name at the time. The clever artist was Miss Marjorie Pond, Supervisor of Deaconess 2, and we hope to have more of the same from her soon. Thanks a lot, Miss Pond.

A MEDAL TO

Frank Merrill, Dietary Department, for his admirable action in rescuing "Blackie," a cute little black kitten, from the despicable men who were kicking her around the meat market after her hip had been dislocated by a swinging door and she could hardly drag herself around. After making it clear to the hoodlums that they were not fit to have a cat, he took her to the veterinarian for attention to her injury, and then to his home. As soon as "Blackie" was on her feet again, however, she had designs upon the Merrills' canary, so she now resides peacefully and happily in the Dietary Store where Mr. Merrill is Assistant Storeman. Though she is fully recovered, "Blackie's" accident left her hips with a cute little wiggle, and all she needs now is some rumba music!

Here's to the Deaconess mascot and her rescuer!

X-RAY APPOINTMENTS

The photo-roentgen x-ray unit in Deaconess X-Ray is busy these days due to a marked increase in the number of house patients and out-patients for routine chest plates. Since there has been such an increase in the volume of work, it would be greatly appreciated if all employees would report on time for their scheduled appointments. If unable to do so, please have your department head or supervisor cancel the appointment.

BOWLING

Latest scores are as follows:

Laundry	95.22
Pharmacy	84.75
Engineering	83.08
Solution Room	83.00
Executive Office	78.00
Nursing	68.61
Dietary	64.45

High Single — Male: John Karman 102. Female: Constance Arey 94, Helen Carberry 94.

High Average — Male: Mr. Emery 96.67. Female: Constance Arey 87.67.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

Hearts were gay, steps were light, and spirits were high on the night of February 14 when about 250 Deaconess employees and their friends attended the first-of-its-kind all-hospital dance held at the Hotel Sheraton. Since this evening was such a success, it is hoped that there may be more similar events. Arrangements were handled by an all-employee committee consisting of Helen Capobianco, Marjorie Clinch, Elizabeth James, Leona Nardi, and Mary Parkins.

Highlights of the Evening: Smooth music by Joe Cook and his orchestra; John Keefe, his usual amiable self, presiding at the door; Jeffie Melder capturing the $5 door prize by holding the lucky ticket stub; difficulty in choosing the winners of the dance contests, since there were so many expert dancers, but finally settling on Barbara Arnold and Dr. David Fairman (Waltz), Caryl Elms and Robert Flynn (Polka), and Betty Dizer and Dick Howlett (Jitterbug.) Judges Helen Capobianco, Tommy Dailey and Jesse Rosa did a hard job well. Did you notice Tommy's look of embarrassment and apprehension as he tapped "Boss" and Mrs. Chamberlin out of each contest?

GLAD TO SEE YOU!

Our welcome to the following people who began work here in February:

Dietary	Mona Buxton
Philip Johnson	Barbara Broadbent
Victor Karaway	Ruth Churchill
Philip Gillis	Nancy Cook
Arthur Leone	Ernestine Gross
Housekeeping	Rose Kalayjian
Harvey Hodder	Evelyn Morris
Thomas Lucas	Beatrice Pugsley
Victoria Rallis	Walter Smallman
Francis Curley	Marilyn Sawyer
Record Rooms	Louise Cox
Marjorie Burns	Barbara Arnold
Social Service	Rita Corbett
Ida Jeanne Tobias	Madelyn Lawrence
Nursing	Helen Smith

ADMITTING

Wedding Bells. Records are being shattered, for come May 29th we shall have a *MRS.* in the department! This is a decided departure from normalcy, and once the precedent is set anything can happen. The Mrs.-to-be is our pert Miss Leona Chille whose marriage to Mr. Thomas N. Trainor, Jr. this Spring has us all a-dither and chock-full of good wishes for the happy pair.

Spring. Vacation planning has reared its confused head, and while to Miss Haskell it may present more

than her share of headaches, to all of us the thought is as refreshing as the oh-will-they-ever-bloom flowers of May.

How Far This Little Candle Throws Its Beam. From Tel Aviv, Palestine came recently another patient seeking a cure within our portals. Still another patient requested that the hospital bill be mailed to her home in Shanghai, China. And then there was the gentleman who when upon admission was asked if he'd ever been a patient here before answered, "Oh no, I come from Providence, R. I."!!

NURSING

Miss Margaret Shrader returned March 1st from a vacation in Florida. We all envy her for the wonderful coat of tan she acquired.

Staff Nurses' Meeting: The third meeting of the staff nurses was held Tuesday night, March 2, in Harris Hall. About 30 members were present despite the 30th blizzard of the season. A short business meeting was held, with Mrs. Virginia Dillman presiding. This was followed by a very interesting talk by a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Refreshments were served by the following committee: Aileen Jessup, Charlotte Kelley, and Doris McIsaac. Officers elected at the first meeting were: President, Virginia Dillman; Vice-President, Rose Kozlowski; Secretary, Elsie Keeffe. Miss Hankinson is the faculty advisor. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 6, when Louise Cox, Marilyn Sawyer, and Emilie Borek will be in charge.

All of us wish Claire Bailey, hospitalized on Palmer 3, the best and fastest recovery possible.

PATHOLOGY

That "new look" in Bacteriology lab is the golden ring on the hand of Mrs. John Ahearn—Thelma Maxon to you.

Dr. Chin-Tsai is now at Memorial Hospital in New York City. He takes with him our best wishes for he proved to be one of the best. And here, may we say that our recent experiences with doctors from other countries have been extremely pleasant and broadening.

Peggie Middleton, whose laboratory is on the fourth floor Deaconess, has gone home to Isle of Pines where she will stay indefinitely. We are sorry to have her go, and are we jealous of all that sunshine compared with all of our snow.

RECORD ROOMS

Kay Leary happily announces the arrival of a new niece. Congratulations, Auntie.

Doris Costello, who has left the Palmer Record Room to take the position of secretary to Dr. John McKittrick, has recently announced her engagement.

Miss Studley, former Palmer Record Librarian, left Boston on February 23rd for her anticipated trip to California. She will be in Alhambra, near Los Angeles for about a month.

STAFF

Dr. John McKittrick was in Washington, D. C. on February 19th to deliver a lecture at a medical meeting there. Dr. and Mrs. McKittrick returned from a vacation trip to New York, Illinois, and Kansas City on March 4.

Dr. Alexander Marble has been sent to Germany by the United States Army as medical consultant to the First Service Command. He will spend four weeks inspecting Army hospitals there.

Dr. Howard Root has been hither and yon—vacation in New York; consultation in Puerto Rico; and diabetic meetings in Toronto, Canada.

We're glad to say that Drs. Hanisek and A. Joslin are back on their feet again after being hospitalized in Baker.

Dr. Gilbert Horrax made the March 1 Sport Page of the Boston Herald by virtue of being a member of the curling team that won the Clyde Cup Consolation on February 29 at the Country Club where the International Curling Tournament was held.